



Narathiwat

TOURIST INFORMATION

*Colourful hand-painted
Korlae fishing boats*

EXOTIC
Thailand



Introduction

Narathiwat is the southernmost Thai coastal province facing the Thai Gulf and borders northeast Malaysia. The provincial capital is 1,437 kilometres south of Bangkok by road, and 1,116 kilometres by rail. The province covers some 4,475 square kilometres, two thirds of which are forested mountains. The inhabitants of Narathiwat (which means 'the residence of good people') are largely farmers and fishermen.

City Attractions

Naratat Beach

This area, near the estuary of the Bangnara River, comprises a broad and extensive pine-lined beach with white sand. Several beachside restaurants serve native-style cuisine, and accommodation facilities are available.

Phra Buddha Taksin Mingmongkol

Located in Wat Khakong, 6 kilometres from town on the Narathiwat-Rangae Road, this large seated Buddha image is covered with golden mosaic tiles, is 24 metres high and measures some 17 metres from knee to knee.

Taksin Rachanives Palace

This coastal palace, in the area of Tanyong mountain, was constructed in 1973 to accommodate members of the Thai royal family during their frequent visits to southern Thailand. Visits are permitted between 9.00 AM and 4.00 PM on days when royalty are not in residence.

Manao Bay

Known locally as Hat Ao Manao, this 4-kilometre long beach, near the royal palace, is backed by ecologically diverse coastal mangroves.

Yahkung Village

Located 4 kilometres from the city hall, on the road to Rangae district, the village is noteworthy for the colourful batiks produced there.

Banthon Village

Located 16 kilometres from the provincial capital, and just beyond the airport, this scenic coastal fishing village, populated by Thai Muslims, is noteworthy for the hand-painted *Korlae* fishing boats seen there. Colourful models of the craft are also made. The village is also well known for its reed mats, *nam budu* fish sauce and fish-flavoured chips.



Out-of-City Attractions

Wat Cholthara Singhe

This ancient temple, located 100 metres from the Amphoe (district) Tak Bai marketplace, contains several noteworthy buildings, including chapels and meeting halls, wherein are found murals, statues and other religious *objets d'art* typifying southern Thai arts, religious beliefs and lifestyles..

Ko Yao

This densely forested island is connected by a wooden bridge with the area located in front of the Tak Bai district office.

Pa Phru To Daeng

Located some 19 kilometres from Sungai-Kolok on the road to Tak Bai, this more than 80,000-acre area is Thailand's largest remaining swamp forest. The area is still rich in flora and fauna. There are more than 400 varieties of trees, plants and vegetation indigenous to the area, and more than 200 mammal and bird species, including panthers, seven-coloured squirrels, Singaporean rats, Malaysian red-cheeked flying squirrels and red-tailed magpie robins. A Forest Study Centre is some 5 kilometres from Sungai -Kolok.

Tomoh Chinese Goddess Shrine

Located on Puthorn Lane, just off Charoenkhet Road in

Sungai-Kolok, this shrine is the scene of an annual festival when, on the 23rd day of the third lunar month, the images of the goddesses and god are ceremonially paraded around town in a colourful procession amid great celebrations.

Dan Sungai-Kolok

The principal east coast border checkpoint with Malaysia is located in Sungai-Kolok, a border town some 66 kilometres south of the Narathiwat provincial capital. The actual border is marked by a railway bridge connecting the two countries. As with any border town, Sungai-Kolok manages to reflect the major cultural characteristics of both countries.

Lochut Folk Museum

This museum is located 11 kilometres from Waeng district office in Ban Su-Kae village. The museum collection in-

From Left to Right:
*The seated Phra Buddha Taksin
 Mingmongkol image, the provincial
 capital's scenic Naratat Beach,
 and Korlae fishing boats, large and small,
 being decorated by local artisans at
 Banthon village*

NARATHIWAT City Map

not drawn to scale



NARATHIWAT

Provincial Map

not drawn to scale



Pattani

Yala

Bacho

Airport

Naratat Beach

Taksin Rachanives Palace

Narathiwat

Yi-Ngo

Muang

Wat Khao Kong

Ruso

Bajo Waterfall

Rangae

Wat Cholphara Singhe

Yao Island

Ban Tanyongmas

Si-Po Waterfall

Si Sakhon

Tak Bai

Taba Bor

Chat Warin Waterfall

Sungai Padi

Tourism Authority of Thailand

Thai-Malaysian Border

Sungai Kolok

Chanae

Sukhirin

Waeng

Gold Miner

Sirindhorn Waterfall

Malaysia



cludes antique artifacts excavated in the area such as Malay-style knives (*kris*) and pottery. A great many of the items are at least 1,000 years old.

Sirindhorn Waterfall

This waterfall is located some 7 kilometres from Waeng district. Golden-leaved trees in the waterfall area bring considerable fame to Narathiwat.

Chat Warin Waterfall

This cascade, located some 6 kilometres away from Sungai Padi district office, is located in a richly vegetated area where wild durian trees are prominent.

Bajo Waterfall

This 60-metre-high waterfall is the most beautiful cascade in Narathiwat province. It is located 1 kilometre from Bacho district, or some 26 kilometres north of the provincial capital on the Narathiwat-Pattani road (Highway 42). A turning at Km. 73 leads to the waterfall, some 2 kilometres distant. Accommodation facilities are available.



300-year-old Mosque

Known locally as either *Masajid Vadi alhussein* or *Masajid Talomanoh*, this unique wooden structure is located in Talomanoh village, some 4 kilometres south of the Bacho district office. The mosque was probably constructed in 1769 and combines Thai, Malay and Chinese art styles within one complex. Woodcarvings on various panels attest to the diversity of styles.

Wat Cherngkhao

Located in Bacho district, off the Bacho-Raman highway, the temple is well known inasmuch as the body of the former abbot, Luang Pho Daeng, who died in 1979, has not decayed. The abbot's corpse is an object of local reverence.



Local Products

Batik, a fabric-colouring technique in which wax and colours react against each other in distinctive textures and linear, freehand patterns, is widely produced throughout Indonesia, Malaysia and southern Thailand. Batiks produced in Narathiwat number among the finest produced in Thailand.

Special Events

Specialties Festival & Longkong Fruit Fair

Staged each October in the provincial capital, this festival coincides with *Korlae* boat races between local crews.

Tomoh Chinese Goddess Fair

Staged in Sungai-Kolok, usually during late April, this features dragon and lion dances, revelry and religious processions.



Clockwise from Top Left:
The Bajo Waterfall,
the 200-year-old mosque, local batik
artisans and finished products
 Overleaf:
Korlae boats and Tomoh Chinese
Goddess Fair celebrations

How To Get There

By Bus

Airconditioned coaches and non-airconditioned buses leave Bangkok's Southern Bus Terminal every day. For further details, please contact Bangkok 434-5558.

By Rail

Trains leave Bangkok's Hualampong Railway Station daily for Narathiwat. Please contact Bangkok 223-7010, 223-7020 for further details.

By Air

Thai Airways operates thrice weekly flights from Bangkok to Narathiwat via Nakhon Si Thammarat. Please contact Bangkok 280-0070, or 280-0080 for further details.

By Car

Narathiwat can be most conveniently reached by car from Bangkok by taking Highway 4 (Buddha Monthon Road) to Nakhon Pathom, and thence to Chumphon via Petchaburi, Hua Hin and Chumphon, and thence onto Highway 401 to Nakhon Si Thammarat, thence to Hat Yai, Pattani and Narathiwat.

Accommodation

A comprehensive list of airconditioned and non-airconditioned accommodation, and restaurants, in Narathiwat, can be obtained from the local Tourism Authority of Thailand office on Asia 18 Road in Sungai-Kolok. The office is open seven days a week, throughout the year, from 8.30 AM until 4.30 PM.



Tourism Authority of Thailand

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